Yesterday, I brought to your attention some of the work that has been ongoing in the City of Leicester to support local communities over the summer holidays. You will be aware that the Government has pledged £350 million to support this, and I know that families up and down the country, especially key workers and the families of vulnerable children, will be pleased to hear that high-quality, locally based provision is still available. If you wish to access any services, the following link can be used:

- https://families.leicester.gov.uk/summer-holiday-care

Next, the Chief Constable of Leicestershire, Simon Cole, has been seeking to promote safety messages during this period of lockdown. There still appears to be some confusion about what is allowed, and what is not. Also, keynote messages can sometimes get lost because of all the media speculation. The following link will allow you to see the message from Simon, and knowing our community as I do, I am sure you will all want to give your support to the efforts of the police:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plfAP9F-qYs

Rebecca Brown, the Acting Chief Executive of the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust has written to all school leaders to offer very sincere thanks for the work that has been carried out at this time within the education sector. As teachers, we have become used to people being impolite about us, calling us lazy, and cowardly. On this occasion, Rebecca has fully understood the magnificent work that has been carried out by City Schools at this time, and it is wonderful to know that people in authority recognise the sacrifices teachers have made in support of the national effort. Rebecca’s letter can be accessed via the following link:


You will notice that I have not publicised any Zoom new class meetings at the top of the newsletter today. This is because they have all concluded! I have to say they have been incredibly successful, and I want to thank all children and parents for their engagement at this time. Zoom is certainly no substitute for face-to-face meetings, but it was substantially better than just allowing children to drift into their new classes next year without any introductions. Teachers have given some really positive feedback, and I was really happy to have made an appearance at most of the school-based meetings. For the eagle-eyed out there, you might have noticed Filbert jumping around in front of the camera, as well! Anyhow, top of the league for attendance was the new 3DMV, with 26 of 30 children attending, an aggregate of 87%! Well done to one and all.

To conclude, I am aware there has much talk in the press about schools coming back in September. In previous editions, I have spoken about our wish to withhold comment, for now. If you really pushed me, I would say that the guidance is unworkable in its current format. I feel that as the science evolves, and the pandemic responds to the actions of governments throughout the world, the advice issued will also change. Once we have greater clarity, I will contact you to give a more fulsome summary of our approach, and also the Risk Assessment that informs our work. Our firm intention is that your children will be able to return to the same school they left, that is full of joy, nurture, love, and care. Anything less will cause untold damage to the psychological development of the children, especially those in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. As always, please stay safe and well, and contact us, if any matters have been left outstanding. Thank you.